



Mill Hill County High School

Head's Newsletter

2004-5, Issue 8

Monday, 23rd May 2005

Charity Wristbands

CHARITY wristbands have become very popular and the School itself has sold them in aid of the Tsunami appeal. If the School was to sell wristbands, it seemed reasonable that students should be allowed to wear them; we did not think of them as jewellery and so did not think that they constituted a breach of our strict no-jewellery rule.

Unfortunately, as perhaps we could have predicted, there has not only been a proliferation of charity and non-charity wristbands in multiple colours, but students have also begun to wear all manner of bangles and bracelets with them; if we do not take appropriate action, we are in danger of losing the battle over jewellery in general.

I believe that it is worth persevering with the no-jewellery rule. Because of it, I am convinced that we have less jewellery-related aggravation than the vast majority of schools. It is not practical for us to legislate in favour of some wristbands and against others; staff cannot be asked to examine students' wrists to determine whether or not their wristbands are authorised. I therefore intend to ban all wristbands with effect from the beginning of the second half of term.

I know that it is archetypal headmasterly behaviour to ban anything which is fashionable or which gives students pleasure, but I hope that students and parents will understand why I am acting as I am.

**On behalf of
all staff at the
School, I wish
every student
the very best
of luck with
this summer's
public
examinations.**

Personal Safety

I WOULD like to bring it to the attention of parents that in a number of recent incidents, students from the school have had possessions stolen from them by

strangers on the way home from school.

The police have been involved and have come into school to talk to students in assembly about

personal safety. They have warned that students using mobile phones or various types of personal music players are more susceptible to such attacks.

Battlefields of First World War Trip

By Mr C Woolf

AS a part of A level Literature, students study a wide range of literature written during this time. Every year we take a group to the places that inspired this writing.

It never seems appropriate to say the trip was enjoyable; we stood under the Thiepval Memorial and its 73,000 names who

have no known graves and felt the same sense of loss as Elizabeth in "Birdsong" when she comes across this for the first time. We stood at Vancouver Corner where Canadian troops experienced a gas attack and felt the urgency of Wilfred Owen's lines. At the Menin Gate we heard the Last Post where a visiting group of

RAF veterans gave us a living reminder of the sacrifice of so, so many.

Such visits are sombre reminders of the self-inflicted acts of mankind and the strength of human endurance in overcoming them and ensuring they do not happen again, so movingly portrayed in literature.

CRAC Meeting

By Katie Costin (10G)

ON Wednesday, 9th March, a group of Year 10 students including Anton Archer, Archana Dorlica, Robert Jones, Hassan Khaki and myself took part in the 'CRAC' meeting organised by the Barnet Youth and Police Committee.

CRAC stands for Communication, Results, Action Committee and focuses on vital issues which police and teenagers are confronted with. In particular, the meeting focused on drugs and how the police were working with teenagers to develop ideas for supporting and addressing the issues.

The meeting, which regularly takes place once a term, was attended by a number of schools across the borough. During the meeting, students were split into small discussion groups to address different issues

with youth workers.

Mill Hill County High School students participated in a group discussion regarding the dangers of drugs and how teenagers can obtain the right information. We looked at proposals made previously by Queen Elizabeth Boys' School and made suggestions which were then fed back to the whole group discussion at the end of the meeting.

This was a wonderful experience and confirmed my interest in joining the police force.

It was really positive to see that the police were willing to work with teenagers to combat drug-related dangers.

Many thanks to Miss Chan and Mr. Styles for an informative experience.

Junior Inter-Regional Rowing Championships

By Mrs Van Oosterom

ON 17th April, Daniel Ashworth (8L) represented the Thames Downriver region at the Junior Inter-Regional Rowing Championships in Nottingham.

This championship is one of the major regattas which brings together the top rowers from all over the country. In both his events, Daniel was a year below the age-group but still managed to bring home a

Bronze medal in the Quad (coxed 4) event and a Gold medal in the Double, which was a magnificent achievement.

Daniel is also currently the British Indoor Rowing Champion for his age-group and British record holder for that event, having won the Gold medal in the British Championships in November.

Year 9 Netball – Borough Final

By Rachel Buckpitt – Captain (9G)

ON Monday, 11th April, the Year 9 Girl's Netball Team discovered they were through to the league finals, without losing a single match.

Along with the other top three teams – St. Martha's, The Mount and Copthall, we had a play-off for the opportunity of attending the London Heathrow games at Crystal Palace.

Whilst taking the minibus to The Queen Elizabeth Girls' School where the finals were to take place, the team were dreading playing our arch rivals, The Mount. On arriving, much to our delight The Mount could not gather a full team and therefore had to forfeit the match. This automatically meant that Mill Hill had got through to the finals. This also meant that we

had to study our opposition very hard and look for their faults.

St. Martha's won the match 15-4 against Copthall and the pressure was on! Both captains were called to the umpire for the toss. I called heads and won. We now had the advantage of first centre pass.

Due to a fantastic start and good observations of the previous match, Mill Hill took an early lead of 3-0. St. Martha's began to fight back and the scores became level at 3-3. The scores remained neck and neck throughout the rest of the match. First Mill Hill would edge forward, then St. Martha's would equalise. It came to the closing two minutes when, out of nowhere, St. Martha's stole two goals which left the final score as 8-6.

It was a tough match but we

still ended it with three cheers for the opposing team. The whole team played well and finished second in the league out of all the schools in the Borough of Barnet. A big "Well Done" is deserved by Stephanie, Natasha, Ellie, Christina, Afua and Holly!

By Mrs Van Oosterom

WELL done also to the Year 7, 8, 10 and senior teams who also won their divisions (Division 2). The Year 7 & 8 teams lost in the play-offs, both to Division 1 teams. The Year 10 and senior teams are still to play their play-offs.

Calendar

MAY

Wednesday, 25th Summer Concert 7.30pm
Thursday, 26th Year 8 Trip to Science Museum

JUNE

Tuesday, 7th Year 9 Camp Departs
Friday, 10th Year 9 Camp Returns
Wednesday, 15th Food Masterclass
Saturday, 18th Year 9 Geography Field Trip Departs
Wednesday, 22nd Dance Medley 7.30pm
Thursday, 23rd Dance Medley 7.30pm
Friday, 24th Year 9 Geography Field Trip Returns
Sunday, 26th World Challenge– Student Training Day
Monday, 27th Staff Training Day
Year 11 Camp Departs
Tuesday, 28th Start of Year 9 & Year 10 Exams

JULY

Friday, 1st Year 11 Camp Returns
Saturday, 2nd Year 9 Geog. Trip to Switzerland Departs
Tuesday, 5th Poetry and Music Evening
Year 10 Science Trip - Epping Forest
Wednesday, 6th Year 10 Science Trip - Epping Forest
Maths Masterclass
Friday, 8th Year 9 Geography Trip Returns
Monday, 11th Year 10 Work Experience Begins
Knapp House Depart
Thursday, 14th New Year 7 Induction Day
Friday, 15th Knapp House Return
Monday, 18th Sports Day MHCHS 9.00am - 3.00pm
Tuesday, 19th New Year 7 Parents Evening
Thursday, 21st TERM ENDS
End of Work Experience
World Challenge Party departs to Argentina
End of Year exam results/reports sent home

Lost & Confiscated Items

THE Finance Office has a large number of items which belong to students and which have been found and handed in for safekeeping. There are also some confiscated items. These include mobile phones, jewellery, CD players, etc.

If your child has lost a valuable item, he or she may call at the Finance Office to see if it has been handed in. If a member of staff has confiscated an item, the student will need to arrange for that member of staff (or their Head of Year) to release the item.

Any items that remain unclaimed by the beginning of July may be given to Charity.

ACHIEVEMENTS

JAMES Cross (9G) has recently passed his violin exam **Grade 7 with Merit** (Associated Board).

TOM Eaton (11G) has passed his trumpet Guildhall exam **Grade 7 With Merit**.

OLIVIA Luder (8L) has just passed her **Grade 5 Ballet** exam with Distinction.

Many congratulations!

The Friends Constitution

THE Friends of MHCHS are holding a Special General Meeting (SGM) on Tuesday 14th June at 7.45pm in the school library, to be followed by the last Friends meeting of the term.

The purpose of the SGM is to update the Friends Constitution so that it reflects its current membership and activities.

Specific amendments are proposed relating to: the length of time a parent may serve continuously on the Executive Committee; the deletion of a 'committee' of link members; the number of members required for a 'quorum' for an AGM or SGM and to propose a resolution affecting the rules of the Friends; the expenditure limits of the Executive Committee.

Since a quorum of a SGM is 30 members, please make every effort to attend. For further details on the proposed changes either email:

Pam Mitchell on Pam.mitchell@campdenconsulting.com or visit the school website at www.mhchs.org.uk

HSBC School Bank

L Trinder & The Year 10 Bankers

SINCE early February, Year 10 Business Studies students have very successfully managed the opening and running of the school bank.

The bank is open in BS1 on Tuesday lunch-time.

Many students have opened new accounts and continue to deposit their savings on a regular basis.

If you haven't quite got around to it yet, don't put it off any longer. You can open an account with as little as £1 and HSBC are providing the incentive of an electronic organiser for all new accounts opened.

Collect an application form now or, if you have an account already, then think about saving more.

We look forward to seeing you.

British Heart Foundation Junior Golf Championship 2005

By Blaize Esmond (7H)

ON Monday, 18th April 2005, Daniel Potter, Zak Moss (6th Formers) and I played the first round of the British Heart Foundation Golf Championships at Barkway Park Golf Club.

We left school at 9.45a.m. in the wind and rain to arrive at Barkway Park Golf Club an hour later. The weather had brightened up and the sun was beginning to shine but it was still very windy. There were 60 players entered and I was the only girl.

Daniel teed off first, second was Zak and then I went last out of our team. It was a very long course and the wind did not help, making the golf harder to play. We finally finished 4½ hours later, very tired. We went into the clubhouse as there was a presentation announcing the winners.

The winners had 74 points and we came second with 72 points, third place had 69 points.

They announced that first and second place go

through to the next round, which is to be played at a golf club in Peterborough sometime in July 2005.

The money raised for the British Heart Foundation was over £2,000. I would like to say that I had a fun day and would like to say Thank You to Daniel, Zak and Mr. Johnson for inviting me to play.



The Singer Interview

By Mr M Singer



DANIEL Ashworth is a Year 8 pupil who is the current British Indoor Rowing champion in his age group. He spoke to Mr Singer earlier this week about his achievements.

I started rowing three years ago at the same time as my Dad decided to start rowing again. I did it to improve my general health and fitness. I'm a member of the TSS, the Tideway Scullers School, at Chiswick Bridge on the Thames. I train every Saturday and sometimes Sunday, starting at 10.00 a.m. for about 2 hours, on the river. I also train at home during the week, using an indoor rowing machine.

My championship title was won on a rowing machine. In my age group, J.13, the winner is the one who registers the furthest distance in a 3 minute time

period.

In April, I also competed in the Junior Inter-regional Championships at the National Watersports Centre in Nottingham. This event brings together the top crews from all around the country, representing their regions.

I competed in the age group above my own in two events, the Double (two people in the boat) and Quad (four people in the boat) and won medals in both. It was Bronze in the Quad but Gold in the double, with my partner Jonathan Williams, which makes us one of the doubles 'to beat' in the country!

My next big competition will probably be the National Championships, this summer, but there will be many Thames regattas before that.

